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PAGE 01 STATE 141825
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

-----078849 052225Z /64

O 052134Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141825

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT LUBUMBASHI 0636 ACTION KINSHASA INFO SECSTATE BRUSSELS
PARIS RABAT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PEKING 5 JUN 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0636

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, EMIN, CG, MILI

SUBJECT: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS: JUNE 5,1978

1. MILITARY STIUTION: NO FLNC INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED
IN ANY OF THE SOUTH SHABAN TOWNS OVER THE WEEKEND. FRENCH
AND BELGIAN TROOPS HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR PRESENCE THROUGH
OUT THE AREA, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING FEWER VISI-
BILITY PATROLS THAN WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED. THE FIRST
AMERICAN C-141 ARRIVED AT 1940 ON JUNE 4 CARRYING THE US
AIR FORCE GROUND TEAM WHICH WILL SERVICE THE US AIR FORCE
PLANES EXCHANGING THE PAN-AFRICAN FORCE FOR FRENCH LEGION
NAIRES. THE FIRST PLANE OF MOROCCAN TROOPS WAS DUE TO
ARRIVE THE MORNING OF JUNE 5. FOUR OTHER FLIGHTS CARRYING
MOROCCANS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT ARE EXPECTED LATER IN
THE DAY. NO FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES WILL BE DEPARTING ON
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THESE FIRST PLANES. ACCORDING TO THE UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE TEAM AND THE HEAD OF
THE FRENCH TEAM, THE FIRST LEGIONNAIRES WILL BE
LEAVING ON JUNE 6.

2. REACTION TO PULLOUT: STRONG CONCERN HAS BEEN
EXPRESSED THAT THE FRENCH ARE PULLING OUT TOO QUICKLY.

MANY EXPATRIATES DEPENDENTS DEPARTED OVER THE WEEKEND WHILE PEOPLE SEEM MORE PREPARED PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO ACCEPT THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE NOW THAN WHEN IT WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED, THERE REMAIN STRONG DOUBTS ABOUT ITS LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS. IN ADDITION PEOPLE ARE ASKING WHERE WILL THESE TROOPS BE DEPLOYED. WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THEM, THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY FELT STRONGLY THAT THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS WERE PROTECTING THEM. WITH THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE, THEY ARE NOT SO SURE.

3. DELEGATION FROM GECAMINES (GCM) AND FRENCH CONSULATE MET WITH COLONOL GRAS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FRENCH MILITARY STAFF EVENING OF JUNE 4 TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN THAT FRENCH WERE PLANNING TOO RAPID A DEPARTURE. FRENCH CONSUL SAID THAT DURING MEETING IN LIKASI OVER WEEKEND IN LIKASI WITH NUMBERS OF FRENCH COMMUNITY. 49 OUT OF 50 PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY WOULD LEAVE ZAIRE IF THERE WAS PRECIPITOUS FRENCH PULL-OUT. GCM OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS NOT ONLY EXPATRIATES COMSINITY THAT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT FRENCH ACTIONS, BUT ALSO THEIR ZAIRIAN STAFF, PARTICULARLY IN KOLWEZI WHERE OPEATIONS WERE JUST BEGINNING. ZAIRIAN ENGINEERS HAD STATED INFORMALLY THEY WOULD BE AFRAID TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK WITHOUT ASSURED FOREIGN PROTECTION. GRAS SEEMS TO HAVE TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GCM GROUP THAT THE FIRST FRENCH WOULD NOT BE LEAVING BEFORE JUNE 7(DESPITE THE FACT THAT AMERICAN LIAISON TEAM HAD CONFIRMED A JUNE 6 DEPARTURE FOR THE FIRST UNITS ONLY(ONE HOUR EARLIER) AND THAT ALL FRENCH TROOPS WOULD LEAVE WITHIN EIGHT DAYS. THE GCM GROUP PRESSED THE FRENCH TO REMAIN WITH AT LEAST A TOKEN DELEGATION UNTIL THE PAN-AFRICAN FORCE CAN ESTABLISH ITSELF. THEY SPOKE OF A TEMPORARY PRESENCE OF A DETACHMENT, POSSIBLY 250LEGIONNAIRES BUT WERE UNWILLING TO SET A FIRM WITHDRAWAL DATE COL GRAS SAID HE WOULD RELAY THE GROUPS CONCERN TO PARIS.THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH CONSUL GENERALS WILL BE MAKING A SIMILAR APPEAR TO THEIR CAPITALS.

4. KOLWEZI ACTIVITIES: ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT MOBUTU SPENT EACH EVENING OVER THE WEEKEND IN LUBUMBASHI HE MADE SEVERAL DAY VISITS TO KOLWEZI. ORDER SEEMS TO BE SLOWLY RETURNING TO THE TOWN. REPORTS OF LOOTING HAVE DECLINED.ON JUNE 2 THE PRESIDENT VISITED THE GECAMINES FACILITIES IN KOLWEZI, ACCOMPANIED BY 30 LEGIONNAIRES FOR SECURITY AND EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION THAT THE ZAIRIAN CADRE AND WORKERS WERE ABLE TO RESTART THE MINING OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE

ASSISTANCE OF RESIDENT EXPATRIATES. HE NOTED PUBLICLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO MANY EUROPEANS AND HOPED THE COMPANY WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITH FEWER IN THE FUTURE. RETURNING TO KOLWEZI ON THE AFTER-NOON OF JUNE 4 WITH CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA, THE PRESIDENT DROVE BRIEFLY AROUND THE TOWN AND AGAIN VISITED SOME OF THE GCM FACILITIES. THE CHINESE FONMIN DEPARTED FOR KINSHASA IN THE EVENING.

5. GECAMINES KOLWEZI OPERATIONS: AGAINST THE ADVICE OF SENIOR EXPATRIATE OFFICIALS, GCM HAD ALL OF ITS KOLWEZI INSTALLATION OPERATING (EXCEPT THE MATEALKAT ZINC PLANT) FOR THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU ON JUNE 2. THE KOLWEZI CONCENTRATOR HAD BEGUN OPERATING AT
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80 PC CAPACITY AND THE KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR AT 65 OF CAPACITY. THE EXPATRIATES ARGUE THAT IT IS SIMPLE TO START OPERATIONS AT ALL PLANTS IN KOLWEZI BUT THAT THE ZAIRIAN ENGINEERS LACK THE EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THEY STATE THAT THE MISHANDLED PROBLEMS AT THE UNDERGROUND MINE AND MODERN KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR WILL LEAD TO FUTURE PRODUCTION DELAYS AND COSTLY EXPENSES.

6. GECAMINES DELEGATE GENERAL UMBA LEFT FOR PARIS ON JUNE 4 TO MEET WITH THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES AND ASK FOR GREATER FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO GECAMINES
COMMENT: SPECULATION IS THAT PRESIDENT MOTUBU ANGERED BY RECENT POLITICAL ACTIONS IN BELGIAN AND ZAIRES HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON BELGIAN TECHNICIANS AT GCM, IS SEEKING FRENCH AGREEMENT TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE MINING COMPANY. SINCE THE FRENCH ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN JEALOUS IF THE PRE-DOMINANCE OF THE BELGIANS IN GCM AFFAIRS, UMBA TRIP TO PARIS IS SEEN AS AN ADVANCE MOVE TO SPLIT THE FRENCH FROM THE BELGIANS IN ANY FUTURE EFFORT TO PRESENT THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT WITH JOINT DEMANDS FOR REFORMS,
END COMMENT.

7. LUBUMBASHI: CURFEW REMAINS IN EFFECT, BUT THERE ARE FEWER SOLDIERS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN ENFORCING IT. MILITARY ACTIVITIES AT NIGHT ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE OUTLYING ZAIRIAN CITIES, WHERE SOLDIERS HAVE CONTINUED TO BEAT UP AND ROV ANYONE WHO CROSSES THEIR PATH OR HAPPENS TO BE OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES. SOME SOLDIERS HAVE BOLDLY PUSHED THEIR WAY INTO HOMES OF THE URBAN POOR FOR WHAT HAS BECOME ROUTINE HARASSMENT. ON JUNE 2, A DELEGATION OF ZAIRIAN EMPLOYEES MET WITH MILITARY
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AUTHORITIES TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SOLDIERS BRU-
TALITY. THE AUTHORITIES SAID THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO
CONTROL EXCESSED,BUT MAINTAINED THAT VIGILENCE WAS
NECESSARY TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND PROVIDE
SECURITY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SITREP, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE141825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780235-0074
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780695/aaaaddpf.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fb743d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2485976
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS: JUNE 5,1978
TAGS: PINS, EMIN, MILI, CG
To: USUN NEW YORK PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb743d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014